GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4346
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
ABANDONMENT OF DRINKING WATER SCHEMES
A. VENKATESH NAIK;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to worst economic conditions of the State Governments, many of the drinking water schemes are lying incomplete or have been abandoned;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to help the State Governments by giving 100% grants instead of 50 per cent for those schemes so that implementation of those schemes is not affected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (d) Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities are implemented by the States from their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programme rests with the State Governments.

ARWSP funding to State Governments is done on a 50:50 matching basis. The Desert Development Project Area component of ARWSP is released on 100% grants basis by Central Government. There is no provision under ARWSP to release 100% grant for completing incomplete works. But State Governments are to assign priorities for completing unfinished works.

The assistance under ARWSP is normally released in two instalments. The first instalment is released in April/May if the last instalment in the previous financial year was drawn by the State/UT Government. If the last instalment in the previous financial year was not drawn, the first instalment of funds in the current financial year is released only after receipt of specific request/ proposal alongwith all the necessary documents/information required for release of the Second instalment of the previous in the prescribed proforma. However, second instalment is released after receipt of the proposals from the State Governments after fulfilling the following conditions: -

(i) Receipt of a specific proposal from the State/UT Govt. in prescribed proforma with progress reports and returns by the end of December in each year,

(ii) Utilisation of 60% of the available resources under the ARWSP and the State share (unutilised opening balance, if any, from the previous years plus funds released as the first installment),

(iii) Receipt of certificate of actual expenditure under the State resources and the ARWSP from the Accountant General upto the year preceding the previous financial year.

(iv) Receipt of utilisation certificate (in the prescribed proforma) under the State resources and the ARWSP signed by the Chief Engineer and countersigned by the Secretary of the Department in charge of the subject, for the previous financial year

(v) Certificate that the unfinished works are given priority for completion,

(vi) Certificate that no work started more than three years ago remains incomplete,

(vii) Certificate that schemes technically cleared six months ago have been taken up for implementation,

(viii) Proposal for release of the second installment of funds under the ARWSP, complete in all respects as indicated above, should reach this Department by the 31st December, 2002.

Government is aware that certain schemes are lying incomplete or have been abandoned due to various reasons. The details of all these schemes are, however, not available with the Government of India.